REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. The present application is a divisional of prior application Serial No. 10/013,366, which has been allowed. Claims 1-15 are present in this application, claims 16-24 pursued in the '366 application being canceled by way of the present amendment.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination on the merits, and an early and favorable decision is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,599

Robert T. Pous

Registration No. 29,099

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

GJM/RTP/KDP/maj